

Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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1949 NATIONAL CONVENTION

IN LOS ANGELES

One of the most important subjects of discussion at the June meeting of the Executive Board was the selection of a place and dates for the 1949 biennial convention. Vice-President, Jos. F. Rice extended an invitation on behalf of Rev. Mother Eucharis, President of Immaculate Heart College and Rev. Edw. J. Whelan, S.J., President of Loyola University, for the Conference to meet in Los Angeles. Mr. Rice set forth many inviting and conclusive reasons for the convention being held there.

During the past years groups on the West coast, including Catholic Theatre Guilds of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Salt Lake City and others, have sent representatives to conventions held in New York, Chicago and Washington. Also, we have been endeavoring to build up the western region, which is light in membership. To most groups there the Conference is something far away and intangible. By bringing the Conference to them Mr. Rice is convinced that many new members can be added.

In addition to these very fair and logical reasons why it is time to hold our convention in the west coast area there are other reasons, too. Los Angeles has a great deal to offer with many leaders in theatre, radio and the motion picture industry centered there.

The Board realizes it will be difficult for some to attend but we are counting on your splendid enthusiasm and cooperation to sparkplug attendance at the convention. We hope that by announcing it this far in advance you will begin now to save your pennies (and dollars!) and arrange your holiday time to "Go West" in June. The exact dates are June 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1949.

LADY OF FATIMA "NATIONAL" PLAY

The January '48 Calendar, in the article "A More United Front", told of the Board's decision at their December meeting to select one "big" project each year and urge the concentration of efforts toward the furtherance of that project. The project for 1948-49 is a "national" play to be presented by as many groups as possible at approximately the same time or at least during the same season.

The June meeting of the Board culminated months of thought and reading with the decision to select Father Nagle's LADY OF FATIMA. In addition to its timeliness and the fact that it is Catholic theatre, a great deal of interest in the play had been evidenced throughout the country in advance of the Board meeting. It was published especially for the Conference by The Declan X. McMullen Company and in addition they are granting special royalty reductions for Conference members.

The regular royalties for the play are \$35.00 for the first performance, \$25.00 for the second and \$15.00 for each subsequent one. Our Conference members may produce it at \$25.00-\$15.00-\$10.00 rates. The amount saved on even one performance will pay your dues for one year! Royalty fees should be paid within ten days of production by ALL school and amateur groups. Please notify the Service Bureau one month in advance of your production dates so your membership may be certified and the publisher bill you at the reduced rates.

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Emmet Lavery and Jos. F. Rice were selected by the Executive Board to serve as Co-chairmen for the 1949 Convention in Los Angeles.

With two such dynamos handling all arrangements, the Convention is bound to be a stimulating, invigorating and exciting experience. Mr. Lavery has been a leader in Catholic Theatre and in the Conference since its inception. He is a former President of the Conference and the first person upon whom an Honorary Life Membership was bestowed.

Mr. Rice is the incumbent Vice-President, is director of the Los Angeles Theatre Unit and faculty member and director at Immaculate Heart College.

You will be hearing from them constantly through the columns of the Calendar as well as receiving posters and handbills and other literature for display on your bulletin boards. They plan to make the Conference "convention conscious".

REGIONAL REPORTS

Reports of regional activity and progress given during the Board meeting by Regional Chairmen either in person or by letter were very encouraging. Past accomplishments and future plans indicate even greater progress.

These key people are going to be even more important in the months to come. From them we hope waves of enthusiasm will spread throughout the country, especially in building up interest, zeal and response so the 1949 convention will be our most outstanding and successful. The Regional Chairmen are promoters in their own areas. We urge your cooperation with them.

NORTH-CENTRAL REGION

Last March's issue of the Calendar told of the establishment of a new region under the chairmanship of Sister Charitas, Academy of the Holy Angels in Minneapolis. The Central region had become so heavily concentrated in members that it was decided to separate from it the states of Minnesota, North and South Dakotas. Tentatively the new area was referred

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When the Executive Board met on Friday, June 18, at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois the gracious hostesses were Sister Mary Peter, President of the college and Sister Mary Gregory, head of the drama department.

In attendance at the meeting were Rev. Karl Schroeder, President; Jos. F. Rice, Vice-President; Sister Maria Ancilla, Sister Thomas More, Sally Moormann and Margaret Passmore, all representing the Board.

Also present were Sister Charitas, chairman of the North-Central Region; Rev. R. A. Johnston, S.J., West-Central Regional Chairman; Sister Evelyn, treasurer of the New England Region; Rev. James Donohue, former President and current Editor of the Bulletin.

Special guests included Rev. Geo. Dunne, S.J., author of "Trial by Fire"; Rev. Father Silverman, S.J., who accompanied Father Johnston; and Sister Charitas' companion. The afternoon brought Sister Mary Angelita, chairman of the Central Region, with her companion sister.

Coincident with the Board meeting was a production of Father Dunne's "Trial by Fire" under the sponsorship of the CYO Theatre Workshop in Chicago. Performances were being presented on successive weekends. An invitation for the Board members to attend as guests was received from Anna May Smith Director of the CYO Theatre Workshop.

1948-49 BULLETIN

Various suggestions for the improvement of the annual BULLETIN were submitted, discussed and accepted during the Board meeting. Rev. Jas. Donohue, Editor, suggested the listing of all the members and subscribers. Sister Thomas More recommended the inclusion of the address of each group together with the name of the director. Thus members might correspond directly with one another.

Since the Bulletin is issued late in the year it was suggested by the secretary that the current year and the following one be listed on the cover, i.e., 1948-49 for the new issue rather than merely 1948. The magazine would be timely and current throughout the entire school year and more effective when distributed as a

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SUMMER NOTES

Rev. Vincent de Paul O'Beirne, S.J. has been appointed head of Fordham University Department of Communication Arts. Rev. Richard F. Grady, S.J., the former department head, is now at the University of Scranton, Penna.

Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P., following medic's orders for a complete change, is spending ten weeks traveling in Ireland, England, France and Portugal. He expects to visit Fatima.

Catholic University and Fordham students and alumni will be interested in news of the marriage of Joan O'Byrne and Frank Ford. Mr. Ford is the author of "Lucifer at Large" and "Kingdom of the Blind".

Felix Doherty, playwright who scripted "Song out of Sorrow", has authored a new play about St. Thomas More, called "The King's Servant". It had its try-out production at St. Michael's College Playhouse in Winooski Park, Vermont and received fine reviews. In addition to directing the play Mr. Doherty had to step into the leading role on thirty-six hours notice.

One of the most attractive pieces of literature to cross the Service Bureau desk was the Mallinckrodt High School's "Drop O'Ink", a pictorial issue in blue and white published by the senior class of this Wilmette, Illinois school.

To try to list the many Conference members who attended Catholic University this summer would undoubtedly result in omissions but first hand association with those attending Fordham resulted in new acquaintances and renewal of old ones. These included: Sister Mary Leola, B.V.M. of Clarke College, Dubuque; Sister Mary Maddelina, B.V.M. of Mundelein College, Chicago; Rev. James Caine, S.J. of the University of Detroit; Sister Mary Marguerite, R.S.M., Mercy College, Detroit; Brother James Luke, St. Mary's, Winona, Minn.; Frances Jobin of St. Mary's Cathedral Players, Winnipeg; Patricia Conners, secretary of St. Genesius Players' Guild, Montreal; Edward Garzero of Catholic Theatre Guild of San Francisco; Marydell Zimmerman of Carroll Club, New York City; and Rev. Francis E. Marlin of St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa.

SECOND SPRING REPUBLISHED

Emmet Lavery's "Second Spring" has been republished in an 85¢ edition by Samuel French. Originally printed in 1939 by Longmans', Green and Company, this play on the life of Cardinal Newman was published simultaneously in London and New York. In recent years it has been out of print.

Mr. Lavery is represented in Europe this year with several revivals of "The First Legion", which has been produced in fourteen languages, and also with several revivals of "The Monsignor's Hour", a peace play first produced at the Josefstadt in Vienna in 1936.

These two plays are being widely played in the British and American zones of Germany and are well received by audiences who were not permitted to see them during the days of Hitler. "The First Legion" has also enjoyed a successful revival in Paris where in 1939 it played 250 performances at the Vieux Colombier.

Arrangements are being made by Catholic publishing houses in the British zone of Germany to bring out a complete edition of Mr. Lavery's plays, including the above mentioned two plays and his adaptation of S.M.C.'s "Brother Petroc's Return".

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	Dec.-1947	June-'48
Subscribers	77	93
Sustaining Members	4	4
Members	231	273
Honorary Life Members	1	2
Total	313	372

MEMBERSHIP BY REGIONS

	Sus.	Members	Sub.	Hon.
New England	1	29	13	
Mid-Atlantic		56	21	
Southern		8	3	
East-Central	2	41	7	1
Central	1	61	27	
North-Central		17	5	
West-Central		34	8	
Mountain		4	0	
West Coast		13	5	1
Canadian		10	2	
Foreign			2	
Totals	4	273	93	2
Grand Total		372		

LADY OF FATIMA (cont'd.)

The scripts include notes on the costumes, settings and lighting as staged by the New York Blackfriars. There are also three photographs of their unit setting. Scripts are 85¢ per copy. The Service Bureau has twenty in the library for reading purposes.

The Board recommends the production of the play at some time during the coming season. Thus we will present a solid front in a definite way by focusing attention upon the united strength of the Conference and the "universal" meaning of our title, "Catholic" Theatre Conference.

NORTH-CENTRAL REGION (cont'd.)

to as the "northwest" region. One of the points of business settled by the Board at its June meeting was to officially christen the new section the North-Central Region. Thus, we now have the Central, North-Central, East-Central and West-Central regions in addition to the Canadian, New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southern, Mountain and West Coast regions.

The new North-Central bodes well to be one of the most active. Sister Charitas gave a detailed and most impressive report of their benefit performance raising \$325.00 for the Conference, of extensive correspondence for new memberships and of the number of new ones already procured. Future plans include play festivals on high school and college levels.

1948-49 BULLETIN (cont'd.)

means of publicity. The last issue, 1947, appeared out-dated when distributed by Board members, Regional Chairmen and the Service Bureau to interested, prospective members all during 1948. i.e., up until September or October when the next one is issued.

SUMMER SUMMARY

Immaculate Heart College Summer Theatre, Los Angeles, directed by Jos. F. Rice, presented "Respectfully Yours"; an evening of one-acts including "The Weird Sisters", "Box and Cox" and "A Happy Journey". "I Remember Mama" was the closing production.
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SUMMER SUMMARY (cont'd.)

Catholic University summer schedule of productions opened with Jean Kerr's "Jenny Kissed Me", previously produced so successfully last fall that it has been picked up for professional production. The second offering was W.S. Gilbert's "Engaged", a three act farce set in the British Isles in the 1880's. Executive Board member, Sally Moormann, played the role of "Belinda Traherne". "Heartbreak House" closed the summer season. Basil Langton, British actor and director, was guest director for this production. Mr. Langton is one of the directors of the Century Theater Company and the Repertory Theater in London.

Fordham University dedicated its summer session to the Theatre of the Imagination. A Theatre Symposium included Margo Jones, George Freedley, Jean Rosenthal, Father Nagle and Margaret Webster as speakers. The summer season opened with the Penthouse Theatre production of "Master Pierre Patelin" staged by Edgar L. Kloten, Staff Director. "Quartette", four short plays, was the second presentation. "Lucifer at Large" by Frank Ford, "Unerring Instinct" by Thornton Wilder, "Sunday Costs Five Pesos" by Josephine Niggli and "So Many Faces", an original by Robert Geiringer, Fordham graduate student, made up the "Quartette". They were presented in the Experimental Little Theatre with students directors and producers. The season closed with "Coriolanus" staged by Albert McCleery, Director of the University Theatre. Presentation was on the triple stage in Collins auditorium. Summer students also had the opportunity to witness a special preview showing of the new Laurence Olivier film, "Hamlet".

RADIO:

During the 1948 Summer Institute of Radio students produced over the University Station WFUV-FM a series of five scripts, "Land of the Free" as a project in direction and production. This series was under the supervision of Wm. Coleman, Chairman of the Radio Division and Station Manager. Another series, "They are New York", dramatized the lives of famous New Yorkers and was written by members of the script writing workshop. This series was produced by Judson LaHaye, faculty member and Assistant Manager of WFUV.

